

A NEW LEPANTHOPSIS
FROM VENEZUELA

BY

CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

LIKE many other small, recently segregated genera, *Lepanthopsis* is now recorded as rather widespread in the American tropics from southern Florida, Central America and the West Indies into most of northern South America as far as Brazil and Peru. The following species is the first of its genus, however, to be described from Venezuela.

Lepanthopsis vinacea C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.

Herba gracilis, epiphytica, caespitosa. Caules tenues, vaginis tubulatis, lepanthiformibus, arctis omnino celati. Folium erectum, breviter petiolatum; lamina ovalis vel oblongo-elliptica, obtusa. Inflorescentiae axillares, singulae vel perpaucae, quam folium multo longiores, graciles, prope apicem densiflorae, cum floribus secundis, vinaceis. Flores parvi, membranacei, horizontales. Sepalum dorsale lanceolato-ovatum, superne abruptius angustatum. Sepala lateralia oblique ovato-lanceolata, basi connata, in partem superiorem acuminatam curvata. Petala sepalis multo minora, elliptico-ovata, acuta. Labellum quam petala brevius sed latius, in circuitu orbiculare cum auriculis retrorsis, triangulari-incurvis. Columna generis.

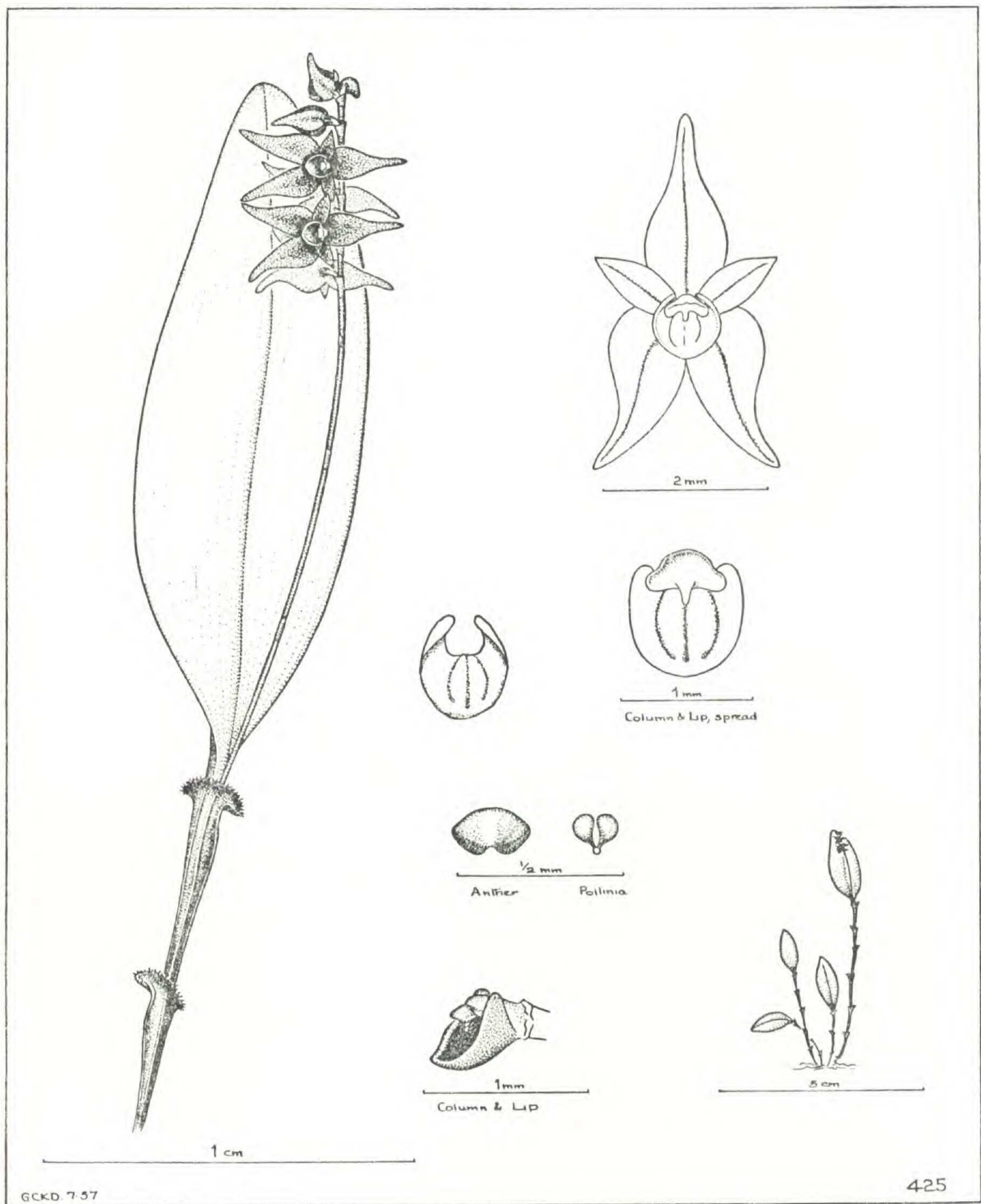
Plant small, slender, epiphytic. Roots fibrous, flexuous, glabrous, numerous. Stems simple, caespitose, slender, apically unifoliate, up to 5.7 cm. long, entirely concealed by several (up to 9) close, tubular, lepanthiform

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

PLATE XVII. LEPANTHOPSIS VINACEA *C. Schweinf.*
Drawing of *Dunsterville 425* from Venezuela.

Drawn by G. C. K. DUNSTERVILLE

PLATE XVII



sheaths which are very minutely muriculate on the angles and terminate in a spreading, ovate, marginate, hispid mouth. Leaf erect, very shortly petioled, rather thick and fleshy; lamina oval to oblong-elliptic, obtuse, cuneate below, marginate, 15–21 mm. long, up to 9 mm. wide; petiole about 3 mm. long. Inflorescences axillary, 1–4 (rarely 6) to a stem, much surpassing the leaves, a single one floriferous at a time, suberect to flexuous or spreading, about 4.5–5 cm. long; peduncle filiform, with several, inconspicuous, remote, tubular sheaths; raceme densely secund-flowered, about 1–2 cm. long. Floral bracts minute, infundibuliform. Flowers few to numerous, horizontal, with widely spreading segments, deep wine-color or bright purple. Dorsal sepal lanceolate-ovate, rather abruptly narrowed to a subacute tip, 1-nerved, about 2–3 mm. long and 1–1.5 mm. wide. Lateral sepals similar, obliquely ovate-lanceolate, connate near the base, with outcurved, acuminate tips, about 2–3.2 mm. long, up to 1.2 mm. wide. Petals much smaller than the sepals, elliptic-ovate, acute, 1-nerved, about 0.9–1.2 mm. long and 0.5–0.9 mm. wide. Lip shorter than the petals but broader, orbicular in outline, about 0.8–1.1 mm. in greatest length and equally broad, with a pair of basal, retrorse obliquely triangular-incurved auricles, 3-nerved, rather fleshy. Column minute, yellowish or creamy white.

This species, which has the characteristic appearance of the genus, appears to be most closely allied to the Colombian *Lepanthopsis acuminata* Ames, but is a larger plant, with less acuminate sepals, dissimilar lip and differently colored flowers.

VENEZUELA: Bolivar [Mount], Ptari-tepuí, at 1600–2000 meters altitude, epiphytic, occasional in the southwest slope forest, flowers deep wine-color with yellowish column, December 17, 1952, *Bassett Maguire & John J. Wurdack 33866* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 68943). Bolivar, El Dorado road, 22 km. south of camp km. 88, "sepals and petals bright purple with smooth-glandular surface." *G. C. K. Dunsterville 425* (Herb. Garay No. 6956).